FALASS-HEADED PI

indow of his library and watched the

smoke from our pipes drift out the summer night.

ne a fixed conviction with me that as ever committed where the appreciated, will invariably lead to the ection of the culprit. I remember a ase that never would have been cleared n probably, if it had not been for a so planks of the floor. Therefore, in swer to your question. I will say that consider the insignificant things that enerally escape notice the most imporhas been committed.

"I have a case in mind, a postoffice It happened when I was conected with that department, before ! ras transferred to the broader field of he secret service. I will never forget he village where it occurred. It was reen mountains. It had only one hod and in the three weeks that I was letained there, I almost destroyed my digestion endeavoring to support life on alt a keener satisfaction in the royal secured at Boston, on my return to Washington, than I did in capturing the author of the robbery.

"The postoffice safe had been tapped or a large quantity of stamps, about 500 in money and a brand new money This last item gave imortance to the case, because a book money order blanks in the hands of clever crook can cause the government more trouble than a session of

which was fastened by means of a lumsy brass key. The key was too arge and too heavy to be lugged about, and after the safe was locked it was hid away in a corner of the cash drawer. A peculiar circumstance of the robbery was that the safe had been found locked and the key in its place of concealment. The culprits had possessed an intimate knowledge of the habits of the stmaster and his assistant, Miss undy, a young lady of fine appearance and charming personality.

'Mason, the postmaster, had a theory that two tramps had committed the theft. He said that two suspicious characters had come into the office the afternoon before the robbery and had bought five two-cent stamps. He condered this a suspicious circumstance. ore than they needed at the time-and hat they always mailed their letters before leaving the office, addressing them with the dilapidated pen maintained by the postmaster at all country offices for victims who have no alternative than to use it. At the back of the building, a window glass had been broken out, and Mason especially directed my attention to it, as he said it nust have been by this means that the robbers gained entrance to the building. All of the doors had been securely

"The windows were without shutters and they were fastened by means of a stick set diagonally across the upper sash and resting on the lower one, a device commonly employed in country towns where weights have not com-

"Mason displayed entirely too mucl nervousness in his conversation, and it was evident that he was anxious to imress me with his theory of the case. 1 egan to form a vague suspicion of him at the very outset. A circumstance that trengthened it was the fact that the vindow had been broken by some one nside the building. The fragments of glass still lay scattered upon the ground ust in front of the window. Mason asme that they had not been disturbed. The most careless observer could not fail to see that the window ad been broken from within. All the fragments had fallen outside and there was not a particle of glass on the floor

of him, but, on the contrary, took parpains to impress him with the belief that I had perfect confidence in is theory and that I would immediateout following the clow that he ad furnished. Nevertheless, I made a examination of the premises, and the only thing I found was a small in a crack of the floor immediately of the rifled safe. Without atfacting attention, I secured the pin and luck it beneath the lapel of my coat. lought it might prove of value. It

did. It was the key to the situation. My examination showed that the rob-

the robbery and also to sift and natural and frank and sweet. mps were rare in the village. attracting attention than could two was in the wording of it: s bit bad for Mason.

After some considerable work I learned that neither of them had been at home the early part that particular even-

tice whom first investi- nor what they had done during this pe- it was the only place of public enter- book.

riod. Mason had left his home and tainment in the village. I headed "'S captain Dickson, a retired secret serCaptain Dickson, a Miss Lundy her boarding house early straight for my room, expecting to find hour of Miss Lundy's return was un- before

Affect of thought, he dence which was accumulating, one morning, upon arising. I was more two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separate persons, either of whom, each seeming bent solely on two separates persons, either of whom two separates persons are two separates persons are two separates persons. of paper under the door of my room. In secured, might have been the thief. I

> " 'Mason robbed the safe." "When I visited the postoffice, I no- game of solitaire. ticed that Mason was pale and haggard "I questioned the proprietor and the light broke upon my troubled mind and he was as nervous as a caged servants about the hotel, but none of Each thought the other guilty and each

> room. It was a dainty, perfumed bit of was not strange, either, for the hotel are a pair of sentimental young inno

"Already sorely puzzied over the evi- "Here was a pretty kettle of nsh. than ever mystified by finding a slip from the unsatisfactory evidence then a sprawling, unnatural hand, four didn't eat a morsel of the meal that was frenzied talk 'Mr.' and 'Miss' had been words were written upon it: placed before me, strewn about my quite discarded and it had been 'John. plate like the cards in some curious dear' and 'Dearest Lucy' and similar

them knew anything about the notes, though innocent, wished to assume the "When I went to the hotel at uoon, nor had they seen any person enter my blame so that the other might go free. I found a tiny note on the table in my room. This was what I feared, and it "'Hold on there,' I cautioned, 'you

department. Taking out my code book, I translated it in a moment and the contents of it, in the light of Mason's confession, was nothing less than un-

and other Texas towns.'

'What does " mean?' he cried. "Before I could answer him, Lundy came into the office. With a woman's intuition, she saw that something was wrong. A look of terror, which smote me to the heart, swept over her face. She sprang forward and stepped between Mason and me, who stood staring at each other like wooden

"'What is it?' she pleaded.
"'I have confessed to robbing the postoffice.' Mason replied in a voice that was utterly devoid of hope.
"'Oh, Captain Dickson,' she sobbed,
'don't you believe him. He didn't have

a thing to do with it. I did it myself.
The money is in my trunk. I have

"'She didn't do it, Captain Dickson, ranted Mason like a man demented fianced bride.

Then both broke into a torrent of protesting and pleading at me, hammer and individually shouldering all the re sponsibility for the crime.

paper, just the kind that refined young was the most public place in the vil- cents, and while I am willing to giv



it must be a further message of the the notes, and never have attracted the word either of you say about this robsame character as the morning's note. It was, but there was a decided conflict in the news it contained. In a over to the postoffice after lunch. Macramped, disguised writing, evidently a woman's were five words:

Miss Lundy is the robber. notes pointed to the postmaster and his handsome assistant. The letters were written by different persons, and it was and went into his private office, beck- this thing up. See here,' I continued, easy to imagine that Mason and the oning me to follow. young lady had robbed the safe, and that each of them had been seen by a different person as they left the building; that these persons were a woman bers had entered the postoffice through and a man, and that they had taken the pains to advise me of what they painful effort, blurted out a jumble of was merely a blind or else it had had seen by means of the brief, unben broken by accident. I didn't take signed notes. And yet, I couldn't en- the safe. I was struck all of a heap, stock in this last theory, but pet tirely bring my mind to accept the the- but never for an instant did I believe w down as a deliberate effort ory. I liked Mason on the short ac- him. There were two quaintance and in spite of the suspi- very language of his incoherent confesa front and a back one. The co'us circumstances which pointed to sion and his manner in making it that told me that Mason was not the thief. he was kept locked and the key him. He was a fine fellow and a man ung on a nail in the office. Only of chivalrous instincts, as was shown th hung on a nail in the office. Only of chivalrous instincts, as was shown son and Miss Lundy had keys to the by the courteous demeanor he invariation when he paused as if he had completed by exhibited toward his pretty assist what he intended saying, 'you'll have on and Miss Lundy had been on the a criminal. She was far too wholesome

"The situation puzzled me more than take much work to establish to ever, and I didn't fall asleep until late am satisfied that you broke the winwin satisfaction that Mason had that night, having tossed away many perately decrived 200 about the restless hours upon the instrument of I question about the restless hours upon the instrument of criminal, and although I know that you deceived me about the two tramps.'

"What more do you want?' Mason breathed. 'I did it, I tell you, and I tarily, next morning. I glanced at the breathed. 'I did it, I tell you, and I shall be convicted of it. I can't restore said the men had visited the eyes opened. It was there, a third note, on the same paper, and in the same because I have destroyed them, but at two strange men could hand and of the same purport as that here is the money, every penny of it. ore visit such a town as that with- of the morning before. The only change

slightest attention.

son was there and alone. Miss Lundy had not returned from her dinner. The "Frankly, I didn't know what to He shrank from me as I greeted him and put his hands over his face. His book itself. Dry your eyes, Miss Lun-hands shook like a man's with the pal-dy; shake yourself together, Mason, and think. Suspicion and these mysterfous and put his hands over his face. His sy. Before I could find a seat he arose let's get down to serious talk and clear

> "I seated myself and watched with patience while he strode back and forth across the limited space of the ofme, and bracing himself with a words, confessing that he had robbed

set about learning where Ma- ant. Miss Lundy, too, didn't seem like to give me something more substastial than your confession before I will believe what you have just said. I don't really think you die the jeb, although I

"He threw a roll of bills in my lap

elephants. This made things loci:
bad for Mason.

"Why don't you arrest Mason? He
robbed the postoffice. Ask him if he
was not so easy to trace Mason
the yours lock so easy to trace Mason

bery, and don't either of "More than ever puzzied. I strolled to breathe a word of such absurd non-ever to the postoffice after lunch. Ma-sense to any one else. I know that neither of you robbed the safe and you couldn't convince me of it if you talked postmaster's face was piteous to behold; a thousand years and produced the charred remains of that money order producing the four notes that had been

left at my room, 'honor bright, now, you wrote these notes, didn't you?" "Neither answered me. I was as utterly ignored as if I had been a wooder Indian sign for a cigar store. looked deep into each other's eyes ! fraction of a second and they must have seen a lot to comfort them in that brief space of time, for the girl swayed towards the man and she was caught in his arms and crushed against his broad breast with a force that I feared would drive the breath from her body. With a contrite little sob, which rang with a note .. of . contentment, the dropped her head upon the man's shoul-He bent down and kissed her hair with great tenderness. 'Oh, John,' sho doubting you?

There is nothing for you to for give, dear,' he answered, so low that I scarcely could hear him. 'I have committed the grievous sin of doubting Can you ever forgive me, dear-

out of the office as if the furies were at my back instead of two lovers hap-py beyond expression in the knowledge that their doubts were unfounded and that there was happiness still remaining for them. I wasn't going to take chances on their being disturbed, so 1 took possession of the porch before the postoffice door to head off any person who might feel inclined to intrude

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The Final Removal Sale of the largest stock of China and Glassware in the Middle West will begin Monday Morning, Jan. 4th.

We are preparing to move into our new building at No. 66 South Main Street. We must vacate our present store March 1st. Our enormous stock will be placed on the market at from ONE-FOURTH to ONE-HALF off actual values.

Open Stock Dinnerware in English, French, German and Domestic China, sold by single pieces or full sets 20 per cent Discount.

Dinner Sets in English, French and German China in Spray and underglaze decoration --- At greatly reduced prices.

Liberty Cut Glass 25 per cent Discount.

Pickard Hand-Painted China 25 per cent Discount.

Bric-a-Brac

331/3 and 50 per cent Discount.

Russian and Oriental Brass 25 to 331/3 per cent Discount.

Steins 331/3 per cent Discount.

English China Plates and Cups and Saucers in dozen or half dozen lots---25 per cent Discount.

Fish and Game Sets 331/3 per cent Discount.

Berry Sets, Chocolate Sets, Three-piece Tea Sets 331/3 per cent Discount.

Cups and Saucers, Single or by the Dozens, in French and German China 331/3 per cent Discount.

Stem Glassware for Family Table Use 25 per cent Discount.

Electric Reading Lamps and Dining Room Canopies All at Special Prices.

Coffee Percolators, Chafing Dishes, 5-0'clock Tea Kettles 20 per cent Discount.

Silverware, Carving Sets, etc. 25 per cent Discount.

White China for Decorating 25 to 50 per cent Discount.

Table Tumblers, Lead Blown A New Special---60c a Dozen.

Many new and beautiful goods bought for our new store and put on sale during the Holidays are included in this sale. advise our customers who want matchings in open stock Dinnerware and Stem Glassware to come early and fill in before the lines are broken.

Callaway, Hoock & Francis

No. 156 South Main Street